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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR (Moscow Oblast)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Medical and Health Conditions in Khimki	DATE DISTR.	16 February 1954
		NO. OF PAGES	5 50X1-HUM
DATE OF INFO.			
PLACE ACQUIRED			

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THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

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DATE DISTR. 13 JAN 54

SUBJECT Medical and Health Conditions in Khinki

NO. OF PAGES 4

PLACE
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)DATE
ACQUIREDSUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. 50X1-HUM

DATE OF

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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INTRODUCTION

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1. [redacted] I lived in Khinki which is a small town of between 15,000 and 18,000 population. It is situated about 15 kilometers from Moscow on the main Moscow-Leningrad highway. This highway was asphalt, wide and well-kept, but the other roads in and around Khinki were dirt and during the rainy season they became mud holes and practically impassable. The Moscow-Volga Canal also flowed through the area. There was a light metal factory in Khinki and also a former airplane factory where German specialists were working on the V-2 rocket. Most of the Germans lived in pre-fabricated "Finnish-type" houses. When I arrived there were about 35 of these houses, all occupied by Germans. Later some 12 or 15 more were built for the Soviet population. There were also some stone houses in the town. About 30-40 per cent of these stone houses were apartment houses. Each apartment consisted of three rooms and a kitchen. The apartment would be occupied by three Soviet families with one family to each room. The apartment houses were six stories high. As many as 30 families used one entrance and about 150 families were quartered in every apartment house.

FOOD SUPPLY

2. In 1946 the food supply was still rationed according to the type of work one did. This rationing system was discarded sometime in 1947. When food was still rationed, the German specialists could get a plentiful supply of almost anything they wanted, but the ordinary Soviet working family had difficulty in obtaining sufficient food.

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When rationing was discarded the prices of food on the free market were lowered, but at the same time some foodstuffs which had been rationed previously went up in price. For example, butter had been 50 rubles per kilogram with a ration card, but after rationing ended the price went up to 300 rubles. The Soviets were only allowed to buy enough food for one day. If they wanted more they had to procure it from the black market. There was very little flour available. On holidays it was possible to buy a little in the store for home-baking. There were some grain kolkhozes in the vicinity, but I do not know where they sent their grain. There was a bread factory in the town but the Germans did not like the bread so we procured ours from Moscow. We were able to get white, rye, and black bread. The Soviets preferred black bread and I used to sell my bread ration on the black market. In this way I made several thousand extra rubles each month.

3. Almost all our food came from Moscow or from farms in the area. I never noticed shortages of any type of food. Sunflower oil was used for cooking by most Soviets, but pork fat, tallow, margarine and butter were also available. Milk was bought on the open market, either in bottles or from large cans. Yogurt was also plentiful. There were probably some laws for health inspection of foods because they had "health police" who checked the markets for cleanliness. When there was a chicken plague in the area these health police saw to it that no eggs were sold in the markets. Milk was tested also, but I do not know who did this checking.

DISEASES

4. There was some malaria in the area. I do not know anything about the incidence of tuberculosis. There were many cases of tapeworm, but I do not know what was used for treatment. While I was in Khimki I never heard of any disease outbreaks or epidemics. There were one or two cases of scarlet fever and some whooping cough. In 1949-50 there was an outbreak of chicken plague. I am not familiar with bovine tuberculosis, rinderpest, brucellosis or rabies. Every year there was an immunization program for the factory workers. I do not know what the immunization was for. The Germans refused to take the injections because of the unhygienic method of administration. Needles on the syringes were not changed between patients. These immunizations were administered to the factory workers by a doctor who came to the factory from the polyclinic.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

5. The factory had a small dispensary which consisted of two small rooms, one of which was the waiting room. Every day a doctor came from the polyclinic and administered to the needs of the 3,000 factory workers. The polyclinic in Khimki was larger and was for the benefit of everybody in the town. It consisted of a wooden barracks-type building, one story high, about 20 meters long and 10 meters wide. All the medical specialties were represented here. There were three specialists for general medicine, one neurologist, one ophthalmologist, one ENT doctor and some others. There were also three female dentists. On Wednesday and Saturday a man who did dental prosthetic work came from Moscow. There was a large sign in the polyclinic indicating that a tuberculosis specialist was available. There was a large X-ray room so they apparently had a roentgenologist. There was also a large physical therapy room with paraffin baths, apparatus for heat treatment, etc. The polyclinic had a laboratory for clinical analyses. Bacteriological examinations were done here. Any unusual disease cases were sent to Moscow.
6. The hospital was located in what appeared to be a former castle. It was two stories high, stone, about 80 meters long and 20 meters wide and had wide hallways. There was a special section for infectious diseases. While I was in Khimki

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I had an appendectomy and remained in this hospital from 17 March until 3-4 April 1950. A woman surgeon using local anesthetic operated on me. She was quite capable, and my post-operative care was good. I received injections of penicillin and heat treatments while I was there. The food served in the hospital was of poor quality and unpalatable. In order to obtain sufficient food, one had to have friends who would bring it in from the outside. All visitors had to wear a white gown while in the hospital. There was another hospital just outside of Khimki located across the Canal. This was a larger hospital than the one in Khimki. I do not know who went there but believe the services were available to Khimki residents. Both hospitals had sections for maternity care and pediatrics.

INDUSTRIAL HEALTH

7. There was a safety engineer in the factory. However, I am not familiar with any of the industrial health or accident hazards. They had no accidents while I was there. Wires were covered and other measures taken to prevent accidents.

PHARMACEUTICALS

8. There was no scarcity of drugs in Khimki. If the Khimki pharmacies did not have a particular drug in stock it could always be obtained from Moscow. Plenty of penicillin in all forms was available. I do not know anything about the supply of sulfa drugs. Large amounts of liver concentrate were manufactured in the USSR and some of this was exported to East Germany. A large amount of the drug supply in Khimki was of German manufacture, captured during the war, but Soviet drugs were also in plentiful supply.

BW AND CW PROPAGANDA

9. I never heard any BW and CW propaganda while I was in Khimki.

INSECTS AND ANIMALS

10. Khimki was built on what was formerly a swampy area. Most of this had been filled in. I was not aware of mosquitoes in the area. However, in 1950 I contracted a mild case of malaria, which indicates that malaria-transmitting mosquitoes were present in the area. Flies and bedbugs were also present. The "Finnish" houses were insulated with wool of some kind and the PW's who had erected them told us that we probably would have trouble with bedbugs. However the houses were always cold, and we were not bothered by them. The older houses were all infested with bedbugs. A spray was used to control these; also a small candle was burned in the rooms after they had been made airtight. This candle probably had some sulfur in it. There were quite a few rats and mice in the area, but most people had cats to control the rodents. There were no poisonous snakes. There were a few stray dogs, but not in large numbers.

WATER SUPPLY

11. Khimki was supplied with water from a central water system. The stone houses had an indoor water supply, but the "Finnish" houses had to obtain water from a faucet outside the door. These houses had been built so that an indoor supply could be connected, but this had not been done yet.

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There was a water works someplace in the town, but I cannot recall its location. In the older section of the town there were some wells, but I do not know the type. We did not have to boil the water in Khimki. However, not many people drank water. The Germans usually drank coffee and the Soviets drank tea.

SEWAGE

12. The main streets of Khimki were attached to a sewage system, but the houses on the side streets had wooden outside latrines. The "Finnish" houses also had no sewage system, although they were set up for one which had not yet been attached. Night soil was collected from the latrines and used as fertilizer in the fields. I do not know how the sewage from the main system was drained. It may possibly have been drained under the Moscow-Leningrad highway, but I am fairly certain it did not empty into the Moscow-Volga Canal. Garbage was placed in large containers outside the houses. These were emptied irregularly and only when they were full.

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